

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0994

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PARTY ACTIVITY RESUMES

SUMMARY: THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES RESUMED FULL SCALE ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING EASTER HOLIDAYS. IN WEEKEND MEETINGS THE PS MOVED TO STRENGTHEN ITS INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND THE PSD AND CDS STEPPED UP CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE RESPONDING TO WHAT THEY READ AS RISING DISCONTENT WITH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PS HITS PCP INTERFERENCE: AT SOCIALIST PARTY MEETING APRIL 16, PS LEADER JAIME GAMA VOWED TO REORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE PARTY'S INTERNAL STRUCTURE. SOCIALISTS ALSO BLASTED THE COMMUNISTS FOR SEEKING TO BLOCK AN
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APRIL 14 RALLY IN SALVATERRA DE MAGOS, IN THE AGRICULTURAL AREA EAST OF LISBON. THE PS SAID IT WOULD PROSECUTE PCP LEADERS WHO ATTEMPTED TO BLOCK AGRICULTURE MINISTER ANTONIO BARRETO FROM PRESENTING THE OUTLINES OF HIS RESIVED AGRARIAN REFORM LAW AT THE SALVATERRA RALLY.

2. PSD TOUGHENS OPPOSITION: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCED

AT THEIR APRIL 16 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BRAGA THAT THE PARTY WOULD STEP UP ITS CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN SYSTEMATIC OPPOSITION. PSD VICE PRESIDENT RUI MACHETE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD USED UP ITS CREDIT IN MANY SECTORS AND THAT THE PSD WOULD BECOME A MORE VIGOROUS VOICE.

3. CDS HITS INFLATION: THE CDS POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OVER THE WEEKEND IN LEIRIA STRESSED "THE DISCONTENT OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WITH THE HIGH COST OF LIVING." THE CDS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN ITSELF INCAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION AND CONTROLLING THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL. THE CDS SUBMITTED 65 QUESTIONS ON APRIL 15 FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. MOST DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

4. CUNHAL DENIES COMMUNIST INTERFERENCE: AT THE APRIL 16-17 COMMUNIST YOUTH (UJC) CONGRESS IN LISBON, PCP SECRETARY-GENERAL CUNHAL DISCUSSED THE INCIDENT IN SALVATERRA AND REPUDIATED EFFORTS TO PRESENT PUBLIC MEETINGS. CUNHAL ENCOURAGED THE 700 ASSEMBLED DELEGATES, TO SEEK ALLIANCES WITH SOCIALIST YOUTH. THIS UJC CONGRESS WAS ITS FIRST EVER (SEPTEL).

5. PCP(R) HITS U.S.: THE FAR-LEFT PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (RECONSTRUCTED) - HELD ITS SECOND CONGRESS APRIL 16-17. THE CONGRESS WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PRESENCE OF A DELEGATION FROM THE ALBANIAN WORKERS PARTY LED BY GAFUR CUCI. THE PCP(R), ECHOING THE IDEOLOGICAL LINE OF ITS PARENT UDP, CONFIDENTIAL

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LABELED U.S. IMPERIALISM
AND THE PCP AS THE PRINCIPAL ENEMIES.

6. SEPARATISTS IN THE BARRACKS?: A PAMPHLET SIGNED BY THE /AZOREAN PATRIOTS IN THE BARRACKS"-(PATRIOTAS ACORIANOS NOS QUARTEIS--PAQ) SURFACED IN THE AZORES AND RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY IN LISBON. THE PAQ, LABELING ITSELF THE ARMED WING OF THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT, DENOUNCED THE PRESENCE OF CONTINENTAL OFFICERS IN THE AZORES. A MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN THE AZORES NOTED THAT THE PAMPHLET WAS THE ONLY SIGN OF PAQ'S EXISTENCE.

7. COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO FORTIFY THEIR INTERNAL ORGANIZATION TO IMPROVE LINKS TO THE RANK-AND-FILE AND TO RESIST STEPPED UP PRESSURE FROM THE LEFT. INCREASING CRITICISM FROM THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION REFLECTS THEIR READING OF SIGNS OF POPULAR DISCONTENT WITH UNPOPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND CENTER DEMOCRATS ARE RELUCTANT TO LET

THE COMMUNISTS BE THE ONLY OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION PARTY.
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Message Attributes

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